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have been local and the results attained, while creditable, have not been such as could be legitimately expected from a stronger and more widely extended organization. With all geographers in America united, influence in favor of exploration could be brought to bear upon legislative bodies which would command attention.

#### PLAN OF REORGANIZATION.

To attain the desirable ends referred to above, the following plan for uniting the existing geographical societies into one organization, with power to increase its membership and broaden its efficiency, is proposed for discussion:

Let each of the existing societies become a section of the new organization to be known as the American Geographical Society. Each section to manage its own affairs, independently, have its own officers, its own property, etc., but pay a sum, in proportion to its membership, in support of the magazine to be published by the united sections.

All members of the various sections to be fellows of the larger organization, and at their annual meeting to elect a president, secretaries, treasurer and editor. The president of each of the various sections to be *ex officio* vice-president of the main society.

The various sections to choose their own names, but it is to be hoped these names would be geographical, as for example, Boston Section, New York Section, Washington Section, San Francisco Section, etc., of the American Geographical Society. Such a broadening and enlargement of aims would be a compliment to the Society now bearing the name which it is desirable should be given to the representative Society of the two Americas.

The arguments for a truly American geographical society are far greater than I have attempted to show. The objections to the plan outlined seem to refer entirely to local pride or, more accurately, local self-interest. That the existing societies should be proud of the results they have attained and love their present methods is not only natural, but commendable. A broader view, however, must convince one that each local society by union with all other similar societies in America,

without losing its own individuality, would bring to itself renewed strength and vigor.

My aim in presenting this outline of a method by which all students of geography in America may be induced to cooperate and mutually assist in enlarging the boundaries of geographical knowledge, is to invite discussion. I am sure that the editor of *SCIENCE* will give space for the expression of the opinion of any one in this connection. I wish especially to invite the Council of each existing society to discuss this matter and express its views. If we can arrange for a meeting of delegates from each society, a mutual agreement beneficial to all can no doubt be reached. This should be done in time to effect a reorganization before the convening of the International Geographical Congress.

ISRAEL C. RUSSELL.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.,  
Jan. 13, 1902.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRALBLATT FOR BOTANY.

As we have already noted the president of the *Association Internationale des Botanistes* has appointed the following American editors for the *Botanisches Centralblatt*:

D. H. Campbell, Stanford University, California, 'Morphology.'

C. J. Chamberlain, University of Chicago, 'Cytology.'

D. T. MacDougal, New York Botanical Garden, 'Physiology.'

G. T. Moore, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 'Algae, Lichens, Archegoniates' (systematic).

D. P. Penhallow, McGill University, Montreal, 'Paleobotany.'

H. von Schrenk, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., 'Fungi (systematic) and Vegetable Pathology.'

Wm. Trelease, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo., 'Phanerogams' (systematic).

For the coordination of the editorial work, the two editors last named have been asked to serve respectively as secretary and chairman of the American Board.

Professor William Trelease, chairman of the Board has sent out the following directions, which we quote as of interest to all workers in science.

In order that the *Centralblatt* may be given the greatest possible value for American botanists and that the least possible delay may be experienced in securing the publication of abstracts of American papers, the authors of such papers are requested to promptly send copies of the same (marked 'for review,' if convenient) to the editor in charge of the subject dealt with in each paper, or, if authors' separates are not available, to call the appropriate editor's attention to the paper.

Each editor is requested to make a regular examination of current journals, proceedings of societies, etc., for papers dealing with his subject, so that occasional failure to receive an author's separate may not deprive the users of the *Centralblatt* of prompt reviews of all papers published in this country. In case an editor has not regular access to any specified serial publication, the chairman will keep him informed as to its contents, if asked to do so. Each editor is requested to consider the subject assigned to him in the broadest possible sense, and, in case of a paper doubtfully lying in his field, to err on the side of noticing it rather than in the other direction, or to specifically refer it to the editor to whom, in his judgment, it should go, or to the chairman of the board.

The management of the *Centralblatt* asks that abstracts (which may be in English), rather than commendatory reviews, be prepared; that the more important publications be first noticed, title and place of publication of current papers not reviewed being likewise sent in; and that attention be given to *quality*, *promptness* and *brevity*, in the sequence indicated, in the preparation of abstracts.

The chairman of the American Board suggests, with endorsement of the preceding paragraph, that his colleagues adopt the general form and marking for printers of the accompanying model,\* in the heading of abstracts, following the Madison rules for abbreviations when such are considered necessary; that names of all new genera, species and varieties (which, like latinized names in general, should

be italicized) be included in abstracts of systematic papers; that especial care be given to legibility, punctuation and the spelling of geographic and scientific names and technical words, and that 'copy' and entries for papers not reviewed be sent to the chairman regularly at the end of each week, a memorandum of postage and other necessary expense being kept and sent in at the end of each quarter year.

The editor of the *Centralblatt* desires to have each abstract signed by the person who prepares it, and, subject to approval and correction of reviews before transmittal to the chairman, each editor has the privilege of assigning any papers in his department to suitable persons, in case he does not wish to abstract them himself.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

At a recent meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston, the following were elected: E. B. Wilson of New York, as associate fellow; Julius Hann of Vienna, E. R. Lankester of London, V. A. H. Horsley of London, F. Delitzsch of Berlin, and S. R. Gardiner of Sevenoaks as foreign honorary members.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY will celebrate on February 21 and 22 its twenty-fifth anniversary, when President Remsen will be formally inaugurated. Dr. D. C. Gilman, president emeritus, will deliver the commemorative address in the afternoon of Feb. 21. This will be followed by an official reception to the delegates, and at eight o'clock in the evening there will be a general reception. President Remsen will make his inaugural address on Feb. 22, in the afternoon. In the evening the annual banquet of the Alumni Association will be held.

THE medals and funds of the Geological Society of London will this year be awarded as follows: The Wollaston medal to M. Friedrich Schmidt of St. Petersburg, the Murchison medal to Mr. F. W. Harmer, and the Lyell medals to Mr. R. Lydekker and Professor Anton Fritsch, of Prague; the Wollaston fund to Mr. L. J. Spencer, the Murchison fund to Mr. T. H. Holland, the Lyell fund to Dr.

\* CAMPBELL, D. H. 'On the affinities of certain anomalous dicotyledons.' (*American Naturalist*, 36: 7-12. f. 1-2. Jan., 1902.)